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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 6, 1982 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 1 totaled an estimated 16.8 billion ton-miles, 2.5 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1981 week included the fifth week of the coal miners' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1982 was an estimated 290.0 billion ton-miles, 9.5 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 1 totaled 389,526 cars, 1.5 percent below 1981 but 1.2 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 17.6 percent in the East due to the 1981 coal strike, but were down 3.2 percent in the South and 11.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1981, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down. Thirteen of the 21 groups increased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 24, totaled 36,286 cars, up an estimated 14.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1981, and 67,743 trailers and/or containers, 21.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first seventeen weeks of the year was 586,629 cars, 8.4 percent higher than last year, and 1,041,950 trailers and/or containers, up 6.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/1/82:

	Loadings in Week ended May 1, 1982		Change from Corresponding Week 1981			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,024	D	351	1.5	D	2,940	11.3
Other farm products	4,779	I	868	22.2	I	330	7.4
Metallic ores	20,783	D	11,669	36.0	I	359	1.8
Coal	120,213	I	58,821	95.8	I	2,567	2.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,606	D	4,982	34.2	D	336	3.4
Nonmetallic minerals	11,557	D	3,404	22.8	I	705	6.5
Grain mill products	12,287	D	2,235	15.4	I	202	1.7
Food and kindred products	13,660	D	2,559	15.8	D	32	0.2
Primary forest products	15,393	D	4,045	20.8	I	368	2.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,535	D	3,652	35.8	I	37	0.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	17,458	D	3,216	15.6	I	497	2.9
Chemicals and allied products	24,878	D	3,525	12.4	I	1,614	6.9
Petroleum products	4,645	D	354	7.1	D	134	2.8
Stone, clay and glass products	10,054	D	5,145	33.9	I	30	0.3
Coke	5,104	D	1,877	26.9	D	73	1.4
Metals and products	11,754	D	7,391	38.6	I	688	6.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,197	D	3,106	15.3	D	97	0.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,694	D	5,105	37.0	D	180	2.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,890	D	1,407	13.7	I	116	1.3
All other carloads	42,789	D	1,739	3.9	I	845	2.0
LCL traffic	226	I	19	9.2	D	35	13.4
Total Cars Loaded	389,526	D	6,054	1.5	I	4,531	1.2
Corresponding week of 1981	395,580						

	1982	1981	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (18 weeks)	6,718,457	7,539,631	D 10.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
17 Weeks cumulative	273.2	303.1	D 9.9
Week ended May 1	16.8	17.2	D 2.5
18 Weeks cumulative	290.0	320.3	D 9.5

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